

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IT2004/000575

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N35/02 G01N15/05

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 526 705 A (SKOTNIKOV ET AL) 18 June 1996 (1996-06-18) column 3, lines 53-64 column 6, lines 47-67 column 9, line 44 - column 10, line 37; figures 1,3	1-8, 16-26, 29,30, 32-35, 37-39
Y	EP 0 391 861 A (DIESSE DIAGNOSTICA SENESE S.R.L) 10 October 1990 (1990-10-10) column 4, line 45 - column 5, line 41; figures 1-5 ----- -/-	1-8, 16-26, 29,30, 32-35, 37-39

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

16. 06. 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Cantalapiedra, I

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter national Application No
PCT/IT2004/000575

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2003/087443 A1 (PRESSMAN NORMAN J ET AL) 8 May 2003 (2003-05-08) paragraphs '0024! - '0027!; figures 1-4	1-40
X	US 5 914 272 A (DUFRESNE ET AL) 22 June 1999 (1999-06-22) column 2, lines 49-63; figures 1-7	41-76
X	US 6 403 328 B1 (CLAMPITT ROGER) 11 June 2002 (2002-06-11) column 4, line 5 - column 5, line 41; figures 1-3	41,54,63
X	US 4 187 462 A (HAKER, ROLF ET AL) 5 February 1980 (1980-02-05) the whole document	41,54,62
X	US 2003/113930 A1 (WINKELMAN JAMES W ET AL) 19 June 2003 (2003-06-19) paragraphs '0042!, '0047!; figure 13	41,54
X	WO 98/02726 A (CDR S.R.L; CURRADI, GIAMPIERO) 22 January 1998 (1998-01-22) page 9, line 14 - page 10, line 10; figures 1-12	41,54
X	WO 91/09295 A (TESI AB) 27 June 1991 (1991-06-27) abstract; figure 1	41,54

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IT2004/000575

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-40

device and method comprising holders for test tubes, agitator devices and detector of level, wherein the holders are in a continuous flexible member

2. claims: 41-76

method and device wherein the blood sample is placed in a generic tube and kept within this tube for performing the reading operation of sedimentation directly inside said test tube.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern.

Patent Application No

PCT/IT2004/000575

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5526705	A	18-06-1996	AU 3212495 A CA 2171545 A1 WO 9604553 A1	04-03-1996 15-02-1996 15-02-1996
EP 0391861	A	10-10-1990	IT 1233510 B AT 124136 T CA 2010303 A1 DE 69020217 D1 DE 69020217 T2 EP 0391861 A2 ES 2074155 T3 JP 1896749 C JP 2293052 A JP 6021853 B US 5133208 A	03-04-1992 15-07-1995 05-10-1990 27-07-1995 21-03-1996 10-10-1990 01-09-1995 23-01-1995 04-12-1990 23-03-1994 28-07-1992
US 2003087443	A1	08-05-2003	AU 2002365134 A1 CA 2452797 A1 CA 2452800 A1 CA 2453252 A1 CA 2461734 A1 CA 2462238 A1 CA 2462447 A1 CA 2463307 A1 CA 2463573 A1 CA 2463673 A1 CA 2463940 A1 CA 2464219 A1 EP 1436584 A1 EP 1438559 A2 EP 1436199 A1 EP 1438561 A2 EP 1436629 A1 EP 1436585 A1 EP 1438562 A2 EP 1438590 A1 EP 1438252 A1 EP 1436586 A2 EP 1436630 A2 TW 581869 B WO 03035477 A1 WO 03036267 A2 WO 03034034 A2 WO 03034075 A1 WO 03034035 A1 WO 03034036 A1 WO 03054552 A2 WO 03034037 A2 WO 03034076 A1 WO 03033394 A1 WO 03034038 A2 US 2003077838 A1 US 2003089731 A1 US 2003088963 A1	09-07-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 01-05-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 01-05-2003 03-07-2003 24-04-2003 14-07-2004 21-07-2004 14-07-2004 21-07-2004 14-07-2004 14-07-2004 21-07-2004 21-07-2004 21-07-2004 14-07-2004 14-07-2004 01-04-2004 01-05-2003 01-05-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 03-07-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 15-05-2003 15-05-2003
US 5914272	A	22-06-1999	NONE	
US 6403328	B1	11-06-2002	AU 3259999 A	20-09-1999

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IT2004/000575

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6403328	B1	CA 2322650 A1 EP 1062493 A1 WO 9945363 A1	10-09-1999 27-12-2000 10-09-1999
US 4187462	A	05-02-1980 DE 2702557 A1 FR 2378282 A1 GB 1574681 A JP 53093684 A SE 7800725 A	27-07-1978 18-08-1978 10-09-1980 16-08-1978 23-07-1978
US 2003113930	A1	19-06-2003 US 6506606 B1 AT 192849 T CA 2223100 A1 DE 69608272 D1 DE 69608272 T2 EP 0830581 A1 ES 2145450 T3 JP 11506828 T WO 9639618 A1	14-01-2003 15-05-2000 12-12-1996 15-06-2000 28-09-2000 25-03-1998 01-07-2000 15-06-1999 12-12-1996
WO 9802726	A	22-01-1998 IT FI960169 A1 IT FI960076 U1 AU 4201597 A WO 9802726 A1 EP 0912884 A1	16-01-1998 16-01-1998 09-02-1998 22-01-1998 06-05-1999
WO 9109295	A	27-06-1991 SE 465140 B EP 0505432 A1 SE 8904207 A WO 9109295 A1	29-07-1991 30-09-1992 14-06-1991 27-06-1991